



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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PRESS RELEASE

Today Special Agent in Charge David B. Mitchell and United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United States Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of Wisconsin (USAO-EDW) have organized a training exercise on Tuesday, October 28, 2003. This exercise will be held at General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA). The exercise will involve the simulated hijacking of an aircraft with passengers/hostages on board. There are other diversions incorporated into this scenario as well. The exercise will commence at 7pm when volunteer passengers/role players will undergo the standard airport check-in and screening process before boarding a Midwest Airlines plane. The exercise will conclude at approximately 12:30am.

The purpose of the exercise is to allow the participants the opportunity to prepare and train for responding to airport crises. The media is invited to attend, in designated "media areas", and should coordinate their attendance with Special Agent (SA) Monica Shipley at the telephone number provided herein. There will be some limitations on filming portions of the exercise for security reasons, however the media will be allowed access to the Command Post - where participating agency heads will be available for interviews.

It is requested that the public be made aware that an exercise is taking place, and there is no need to be alarmed. They should also be made aware that routine airport operations will be ongoing during the exercise, and that regular scheduled inbound and outbound flights will not be disrupted due to this exercise.

The participating agencies in this exercise are the FBI; the USAO-EDW; Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department; Federal Aviation Administration; Milwaukee County Emergency Management; Milwaukee County Fire Department at GMIA; Milwaukee County Health Department; American Red Cross; Midwest Airlines; Federal Air Marshals; Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Transportation Security Administration (TSA); 440th. Airlift Wing; Wisconsin Air National Guard 128th. Air Refueling Group; United States Coast Guard; and GMIA Operations.

Any questions and comments, regarding this event, should be directed to the FBI's Media Coordinator, SA Monica Shipley at (414) 276-4684.